



MOOT COURT SOCIETY | SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NOIDA
Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune
9th ASCENT Moot Court Competition, 2020

Rules & Regulations

INTRODUCTION

Moot Court Society of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA (hereinafter MCS-SLSN) announces its 9th Annual Edition of ASCENT Moot Court Competition, 2020 - Session 2019-20 (hereinafter ASCENT) for selections (internal elimination) of learners as pleaders and researchers to its Mooting Contingent-XIV (hereinafter C-XIV) for representing Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA in the External Moot Court Competitions (hereinafter EMCC) during the Academic Year 2020-21.

This is Ninth Academic Year of continuous mooting at SLS-NOIDA. Way ahead, we are **only looking for devoted students** who are committed to the serious activity of mooting for the next five academic years at SLSN. It may be understood from the ideology that we are **selecting only 40-45 members** (or less as may deem fit) for C-XIV.

Ideology

Aspirants must see in themselves;

- Ability to manage internal and external examinations alongside mooting.
- Ability to deliver INDIVIDUALLY as well as a TEAM, (if there will be lapses in the commissioning of work, first time – express warning, second time – express termination).
- Ability to perform without complaints and blame-games.
- Ability to manage their health, maximum class attendance and deliver work within time.
- Ability to manage internships during and post academic year.
- Ability to maintain total academic discipline and professional culture.

I. AIM AND PURPOSE

- a. The aim of ASCENT is to provide an opportunity to the learners to hone their advocacy skills at an internal level before heading out to EMCCs.

- b. The purpose of ASCENT is to act as a platform for a competition-based internal elimination process to select best budding advocates to represent SLS, NOIDA at EMCCs.

II. PRELIMINARY

- A. The MCS-SLSN is organizing **ASCENT Moot Court Competition** on **Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 0800 hrs. IST**. Participants are required to follow the time, schedule and rules of the competition strictly. In case of any ambiguity or doubt regarding rules/time/schedule, kindly email your query at ascentmoot@symlaw.edu.in. Violation of any rule may lead to disqualification to participate in the competition.
- B. 'ASCENT Moot Court Competition' is 'Internal Elimination' round for the selection of learners to represent SLS-NOIDA in EMCCs.
- C. '**External Moot Court Competitions' or EMCC** shall include all/any inter-collegiate moot court competitions, and also negotiation, mediation, client counseling or consultation/ trial advocacy/ judgement writing competitions, etc. **both at national and international level** that SLS-NOIDA participates in from time to time including EMCCs hosted by or in association with SLS-NOIDA. **No learner of SLSN shall be allowed to participate in any EMCC at any level except through the express allotment by the MCS of SLS-NOIDA for the purpose.**
- D. 'CONTINGENT-XIV' or C-XIV includes group of learners selected out of all the participants / contestants of ASCENT.
- E. MCS-SLSN will form new teams from 'C-XIV' for sending the teams for national as well as international EMCCs. Learners should be willing to gain exposure through EMCC throughout India, and abroad, if deemed fit for the opportunity. Selected members are required to obtain passport upon declaration of results for ASCENT.
- F. SLSN will participate only in those international EMCCs that have India-National qualifying rounds.
- G. To represent SLSN in an international EMCC, teams from C-XIV may be selected through internal challenger round.

- H. Deficiency in meeting minimum standards of selection criteria or qualification by the participants in ASCENT may lead to reduced number of members being selected for 'C-XIV' without prior notice and further clarifications.
- I. Selected members are required to dedicate their time to EMCC(s) solely without participating or being involved in any other activity, be it academic or cultural etc., at the law school, except for prior express permission for the same, considering their ability to manage both activities simultaneously.
- J. MCS-SLSN saves the right to decide any dispute arising out of the rules of Ascent 2020.

III. ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

- a. ASCENT is open to all learners of Batches 2018-23, 2017-22, 2016-21 enrolled in B.A./B.B.A. LL.B. Programme at SLS, NOIDA. It is immaterial whether any learner of these Batches has participated or not in any previous edition of NASCENT/ASCENT, or, whether they had been or not a part of any of the previous Contingents, or whether they have participated or not in any EMCC at any level to represent SLS-NOIDA till date.
- b. Each eligible learner is to form **a team of two participants** with another eligible learner and register in accordance with Rule VI herein. Both team members are required to plead during the oral rounds.

IV. LANGUAGE

ASCENT shall be in English.

V. DRESS CODE

For all oral rounds: Advocate's uniform as per the Advocates Act, 1961 (except band and gown).

VI. REGISTRATION

Interested eligible learners are to register for ASCENT 2020 in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. Fill complete details in the **Google-Form for 9th ASCENT 2020** by answering all questions and uploading photographs of both participants of the team.
- b. Teams must ensure that they fill in the complete and correct details as the same shall be used to contact them for any information relevant and to send notifications for the competition. Participants are also advised to use/create email ids that sound professional, instead of email ids based on fantasy characters, abstract thoughts etc.
- c. You are to fill the Google-Form **ONLY ONCE**. No change in team is permissible after registration using Google-Form. Hence, participants are advised to choose their team member carefully, and only then proceed for registration.
- d. Please check your inbox email for receipt of copy of responses, for registration acknowledgement. MCS shall not be liable for technical failures. This receipt of responses shall act as an **acknowledgement of your registration** for ASCENT 2020. No separate email shall be sent by MCS in this regard.
- e. Registration must necessarily be done either on or before the last date and time per the Schedule of 9th ASCENT 2020 (hereinafter "Schedule"). **Registration after the stipulated last date and time shall be deemed no registration**, and no member of such team shall be allowed to participate in ASCENT 2020.
- f. MCS shall send '**team code**' per the schedule announced. **This team code shall be used to identify the memorials of the team as well as to score the team during pleading rounds.** Once a team is sent 'team code', its registration will be considered confirmed for participation in ASCENT.
- g. Participants are advised to write an email to MCS at the aforementioned email address in case they don't receive their team codes on or before the last date for such allotment.
- h. Participants are advised to strictly adhere to the rules for confirmation of registration.**
- i. Please check your inbox/sent/draft email item for email delivery confirmation; MCS shall not be liable for the bounced or undelivered email.
- j. **Withdrawal:** After registering for ASCENT, in case a team or any member thereof withdraws its participation, the same is required to be promptly reported to the MCS **vide email** specifying the reason(s) for such withdrawal at ascentmoot@symlaw.edu.in .
- k. Withdrawal of one member of a team is invalidation of that team. MCS-SLSN may allow the residual member to contest as 'sole counsel' upon him/her seeking permission for the same vide email to

ascentmoot@symlaw.edu.in. However, in no case, the withdrawing participant/team will be allowed to contest in ASCENT.

- I. **Absence:** Team/team member who fails to turn-up for the pleading round as per schedule, for any reason(s), shall be deemed to have impliedly withdrawn her/his candidature from participating in 'ASCENT', thereafter, no claim shall subsist for him/her. There is no provision for any extenuating circumstances.
- m. **Under no circumstances, an absentee will be allowed to participate in any EMCC for that Academic Year.**

VII. MEMORIALS

a. Submission

- i. Each team is required to prepare and submit memorials from both sides (petitioner and respondent).
- ii. Both memorials shall be submitted in soft as well as hard copy. The soft copy of the memorial must be in .pdf format. Google Drive files should not be sent.
- iii. No memorial should indicate the identity of any participant in any manner, except for Team Code.
- iv. Memorials not adhering to the rules, including submission deadlines, will be returned and shall be deemed not submitted. Such teams shall not be allowed to appear for the Oral Rounds and be considered Absent from ASCENT 2020.
- v. Delay in submitting the memorials will invite deduction of 5 marks from both sides of the memorials of the team. If the delay exceeds 24 hours, the team shall not be allowed to participate in ASCENT 2020.
- vi. **Hard Copy Submission**
 - o Each team must submit **03 copies** of the memorial each for the Petitioner and the Respondent in adherence to the schedule announced. Detailed instructions for submission of hard copies of memorials shall be emailed to the participants after receipt of the soft copies of their memorials.
 - o **The 'Team Code' issued by MCS is to be mentioned on top-right corner of the cover-page and on every page of both memorials Kindly make sure that team code on the cover page is legible and is not missed due to the cover page being coloured.**

- Name of the Competition, i.e., “9th ASCENT Moot Court Competition, 2020” should be mentioned on the cover page.
 - Names of the team members shall not be mentioned anywhere in the memorial. If the said rule is violated, the memorials shall be considered as not submitted, and the team will be barred from appearing in the pleading rounds.
 - MCS will not take into account, even on credible evidence, rush or queue at the campus reprographic centre, non-availability of coloured paper or spiral binding facility, insufficient print-out facility, stationery etc. as ground(s) of extension of time or acceptance of delayed submission or concession of time etc. in any case; we will not bend the rule for any one or for all.
- vii. **Soft Copy Submission**
- Soft copy of the memorials from both sides must be sent strictly as per scheduled time and date announced, **(in .pdf format only) e-mail attachments** in one email to ascentmoot@symlaw.edu.in. Only one member of the team shall send the memorials on behalf of the team **with the second member CC’ed to the email.**
 - The **subject** of the email should be ‘*Team Code – Memorials for ASCENT 2020*’. The **memorials shall be attached in .pdf format only** with files named as ‘*Petitioner – team code*’ and ‘*Respondent – team code*’.
 - Please check your inbox/sent/draft email item for email delivery confirmation; MCS shall not be liable for the bounced or undelivered email.
 - **Once the soft copy of the memorials has been submitted, no revisions, additions or formatting in the hard copy submission of the same is permitted.**
 - We will not take into account any crashing of hard drive, loss of data, loss of gadgets etc. as a ground of extension of time or delayed submission or concession of time etc. even procuring and producing credible evidences will not bend the rule for any one or for all.
- viii. Each team should ensure that the soft as well as hard copy of their memorials is same in content as well presentation, including formatting. No differences, whatsoever, are permitted.

- ix. Teams will receive an 'acknowledgement' email to their memorial submissions after hard copies of the same have been submitted. Teams are advised to contact the MCS in case they do not receive an acknowledgement email within 4 days of their submission.
- x. Submission of memorials, both soft and hard copy, can be made either before or on the last date as per Schedule announced.

b. Plagiarism & Copying

- i. Teams shall be JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY duty bound to ensure that the memorials are original in content. If any memorial(s) is found to be a copy of another, either in whole or in part(s), both teams shall be disqualified from ASCENT. Please note that plagiarism and copying is a serious violation of rules and is an instance of academic indiscipline.
- ii. Teams are advised to keep genuine safe keeping measures with respect to their memorials.
- iii. The defaulting teams may also be barred from participating in ASCENT in future.

c. Colour Scheme

The colour page of the memorial for the petitioner, in both soft as well as hard copy, must be **BLUE**, and that for the respondent must be **RED**. Teams should ensure that the Team Code is **clearly visible** on these coloured pages.

d. Format of Memorial

- i. Each memorial should consist of the following parts:
 - Cover Page
 - Table of Contents
 - Index of Authorities
 - Index of Abbreviations
 - Statement of Jurisdiction
 - Statement of Facts
 - Statement of Issues
 - Summary of Arguments
 - Arguments Advanced
 - Prayer
- ii. The following part of each memorial should not exceed 25 typed pages:
 - Summary of Arguments
 - Arguments Advanced

- Prayer
- iii. The memorials should be printed on **BOTH** sides of the paper, typed on A-4 sheet with black ink.
 - iv. The memorials should be spiral bound for hard copy submission.
 - v. The Font Style of the contents of the memorial should be Times New Roman, Font Size should be 12 and spacing 1.5.
 - vi. The footnotes should be in Times New Roman style, size – 10, spacing 1.
 - vii. Memorial must have at least **1.2 inch margin** on all sides of the each page.
 - viii. Citations shall be in conformity of **BLUEBOOK 20th Edition** which has been made available in the Library, SLS-N.
 - ix. Relevant annexures (not more than 25 pages), if any, may be kept as compendium if required.

e. Evaluation

Every memorial will be marked **on the scale of 100**. For the purpose of calculation, the average score of both memorials (i.e. petitioner and respondent) will be the final score of an individual/team for the purpose of selection.

The memorial shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:

S.No.	Marking Criteria	Marks
1.	Summary of Facts	10
2.	Issues Raised	10
3.	Grammar & Style of Presentation	10
4.	Application of Law to Facts	20
5.	Use of Authorities	15
6.	General Impression & Clarity of Thought	15
7.	Adherence to Citation Format and Correct Format	20

VIII. ORAL ROUNDS

- a. **DRAW OF LOTS:** There will be pairs of teams available to contest oral rounds in each designated court room, each team shall argue only once in the oral pleading round from either side i.e. Petitioner or Respondent, based on the draw of lots, which will take place as per schedule announced. **There will be exchange of memorials.**

- b. **TIME DURATION:** In the oral rounds **each team** shall speak for a **MAXIMUM** of 20 minutes, out of which 02 minutes are saved for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal. There is no further rebuttal of sur-rebuttal and so on so forth, if it happens, it will not be counted. Before the start of the Oral Rounds of any team, the speakers shall inform their court master regarding the distribution/allocation of time between them. Each speaker of a team must speak for a minimum of eight minutes (08 minutes) and maximum of twelve minutes (12 minutes). The time allotted (in total) and distributed (among pleaders) must be taken care of by each pleader; otherwise, bench may mark exceeded time negatively.
- c. **STANDARDS:** All the standard moot court mannerism must be followed as per national level competition, keeping in view the applicable laws.

IX. EVALUATION OF ORAL ROUNDS

The oral pleadings of **each** speaker shall be marked **on a scale of 100 per judge**. However, for the purpose of calculation of final score, the average score of all the judges will be taken. The oral rounds will be evaluated on the following grounds:

S.No.	Marking Criteria	Marks
1.	Knowledge of Facts	10
2.	Framing of Issues (Logical and Reasoned) & Clarity of Thought	15
3.	Knowledge & Application of Law	20
4.	Use of Authorities	15
5.	Advocacy (Cohesive & Convincing Arguments, Style & Structure of Arguments, Expression, Articulation)	30
6.	Court Mannerism & Deference, Professional Conduct & General Impression	10
	TOTAL	100

X. SCOUTING

Sitting in other court room(s) or listening to the proceedings of any other team inside their court room is strictly prohibited and is a fit case of SCOUTING and may lead to termination of the suspect individual or team. Teams, or any member thereof, and also non-participants, are prohibited to observe oral rounds of any team except while their own pleading rounds are on-going. No person, except for a job designated by the MCS-SLSN, is allowed to enter any court room. Violation of this rule may also lead to disciplinary action. Non-participants observing court proceedings in any court-room are prohibited from discussing the same with any participant of ASCENT till the last round of the competition is over in all court-rooms.

XI. SELECTION

- a. Members for C-XIV will be selected **individually** on the basis of the **combined score** of memorial and marks obtained individually in pleading/oral rounds.
- b. Upon selection, if a member opts to withdraw from C-XIV, an email for the same, stating appropriate reasons for withdrawal, must be sent to mootcourt@symlaw.edu.in within 48 hours of declaration of results for ASCENT 2020.
- c. No person who has not participated in ASCENT 2020, both in submission of memorials and oral rounds, shall be selected for any EMCC. (S)He shall also not be a part of Mooting Contingent-XIV, for the Academic Year 2020-21.

XII. DEEMED ATTENDANCE

- a. No exemption in attendance from classes/tutorials/examinations internal or external/internships etc. is available/applicable for the preparation of ASCENT.
- b. Deemed attendance in case of 'EMCC' will be available only for the duration of travel and competition, excluding Holidays. The same shall be commensurate with the itinerary of the competition.
- c. Participants should take note of the rules and should not raise the issue of exemption further during their preparation for the 'EMCC'.

XIII. SAVINGS

- a. No student shall be allowed to participate in any EMCC at any level except through the express allotment by the MCS of SLS-NOIDA for the purpose.
- b. Any EMCC which is not in the participation list of MCS-SLSN cannot be taken part in by any *bonafide* student of the SLS-NOIDA unless by the express / special permission of MCS-SLSN in compliance with all the rules specially laid down / notified for same the purpose.
- c. MCS-SLSN reserves the right to resolve all disputes arising out of ASCENT 2020 including those relating to selection procedure, results etc. It further reserves the right to modify and/or add to the selection procedure and/or marking criteria.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. No team or any of its members can seek assistance for conducting research or writing or editing or formulation/development of its oral arguments or written submissions from any faculty member of SLSN. Teams are also advised to take due care if seeking help from any current student or alumni of SLSN and the same shall not be excessive.
- b. There is only one participation of one student/participant in any one team as its member; therefore, the participants must ensure that they register only once.
- c. To be present for the oral rounds at the stipulated date and time is the responsibility of each participant. Travel, health and climate and other impediments are not our consideration, these are to be taken care of by the contestants themselves.
- d. The **SCHEDULE** announced separately is deemed to be a part of Rules and Regulations of ASCENT 2020.

***** ALL THE BEST! *****



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MOOT LIST - MCS-SLSN

World Class: These are the widely recognised international mooting events where a substantial number of Indian teams participate. These moots enjoy worldwide reputation among law students. MCS-SLSN shall allot the following moots.

Total number of moots in this tier:

1. Stetson India Rounds
2. Philip C. Jessup
3. DM Harish Moot
4. ICC Moot
5. Red Cross Moot
6. CLEA Moot Court Competition
7. ICC International Mediation Competition
8. Oxford Price Media Law Moot
9. GNLU International Moot
10. FDI Moot

National Challengers: Most of the contests in this Tier see participation from the top Indian Law Schools. A large number of them have also carved a niche for themselves in the national mooting scene. MCS-SLSN shall allot the following moots.

Total number of moots in this tier:

1. Bar Council of India Inter-University Moot Court Competition
2. MC Chagla Moot
3. Raj Anand Moot
4. GNLU Investment & Securities Moot
5. Pro Bono Enviro National Moot
6. NLIU-Justice RK Tankha Moot
7. RML-SCC Media Law Moot
8. KK Luthra Criminal Law Moot, Delhi
9. KLA Moot, Kerala
10. Nani Palkhiwala Tax Moot
11. NLS International Arbitration Moot
12. NUJS Herbert Smith Corporate Moot
13. Surana & Surana Corporate Moot
14. Justice Hidayatullah Memorial Moot
15. ULC, B'lore Moot
16. NLUJ Antitrust Moot
17. RGNUL Moot
18. Surana & Surana Trial Advocacy
19. Rizvi Memorial National Moot
20. VS Mani-JNU Moot